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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Johnson named 2004 Audubon Society Legislator of the Year

March 9, 2004 – State Sen. Shirley Johnson, R-Troy, was presented the Legislator of the Year Award by the Michigan Audubon Society this past weekend for her unwavering commitment to keeping the mourning dove off the game-bird list.

Loretta Gold, president of the Michigan Audubon Society, expressed her appreciation for Johnson's efforts. Johnson emphasized the Audubon Society's philosophy that they are not an anti-hunting organization, but firmly believe the mourning dove belongs in the songbird category.

"The Audubon Society considers Senator Johnson's practical and unwavering approach to the mourning dove issue in-line with what we have communicated for 100 years," Gold said. "She has assisted in conveying our concerns regarding the mourning dove as a songbird, but more importantly has continued to try and educate the Legislature regarding the use of lead shots."

The Michigan Audubon Society advocates the awareness, enjoyment, and stewardship of the environment and natural resources through education, research, conservation/preservation with emphasis on birds and their habitats.

"The Audubon Society has taken a multi-faceted approach to lobbying the Legislature that is based on education," Johnson said. "I am truly appreciative of this award."

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Michigan Audubon Society. Their annual awards banquet was held this year in conjunction with Michigan State University's Agriculture and Natural Resources Week.

For more information about the Michigan Audubon Society, please call (517) 886-9144 or visit www.michiganaudubon.org.

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